

Public Notice

Public Notice No.

00-113

Date:

December 5,2000

Nashville District

Application No. 200002156

Please address all comments to: Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY AND STATE OF TENNESSEE

SUBJECT: Proposed Improvements to State Route 73 (US 321) Between Glades Road and Buckhorn Road, Sevier County, Tennessee

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army (DA) Permit pursuant to **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344)**. Before a permit can be issued for the placement of fill material below ordinary high water, certification must be provided by the State of Tennessee, Department of Environment and Conservation, pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. The applicant hereby applies for the required certification.

APPLICANT: Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Suite 1200, James K. Polk Building
Nashville. Tennessee 37243

LOCATION: Segment of SR-73 (US 321) from Glades Road to Buckhorn Road, in Gatlinburg, Sevier County, Tennessee, roughly paralleling Dudley Creek. Work is located in the Mount Le Conte, Tennessee, USGS Quad Map (165-NW).

DESCRIPTION: TDOT proposes to improve 2.65 miles of State Route 73 along existing alignment. The purpose of the proposed improvement is to provide a safer, more efficient highway for the citizens who live and work in the affected corridor, as well as the travelling public. Construction would add two 12' traffic lanes, one 12' turning lane, curb and gutter, a 9' greenway/bike trail, and other related structures and appurtenances. To accommodate these improvements, fill material associated with embankment construction, drainage structures, and channel relocations would be deposited in waters of the United States including wetlands. These activities are subject to DA authorization.

The proposed work would involve permanent and temporary wetland impacts at three locations totaling 0.05 acre and 0.07 acre, respectively. TDOT proposes to mitigate the permanent wetland impact by debiting 0.10 acre (2:1 ratio) from available wetland credits at the Shady Valley

Wetland Mitigation Bank. Temporary wetland impacts would be mitigated by returning the areas to their original elevations, seeding with perennial rye grass, and mulching. As mitigation for channel relocation and box culvert construction, TDOT proposes to plant trees as shown on the enclosed plans and employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation.

Locations where an individual DA permit would be necessary and associated impacts are as follows:

- Site A (Sta. 10+546 to 10+770): Dudley Creek Mile 3.5. Approximately 417' of existing channel would be relocated into 391' of new channel; 0.05 acre permanent wetland impact and 0.10 acre temporary wetland impact. Lat. 35.7267°/long 83.4628°.
- Site B (Sta. 11+526 to 11+717): Dudley Creek Mile 4.2. Approximately 627' of existing channel would be relocated into a new 610' long channel. Lat. 35.7294°/long. 83.4531°.

The applicant has requested that the Corps of Engineers verify that other project activities affecting Dudley Creek and tributaries meet the criteria for authorization under the Nationwide Permit Program [March 9, 2000, Federal Register (65 FR 12818)]. These locations are as follows:

- Sta. 10+320: Relocate 184' of existing channel into a new 164' long channel.
- Sta. 13+442: Extend a 1 @ 6'x6' box culvert by 32'.
- Sta. 13+556: Extend a 1 @ 8'x6' box culvert by 40'.
- Sta. 13+746: Extend a 1 @ 4'x3' box culvert by 63'.
- Sta. 14+175: Extend a 1 @ 8'x5' box culvert by 40'.

Plans of the proposed work are enclosed with this notice.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA (40 CFR Part 230). A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known which would be affected by the proposed work. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service - Atlanta.

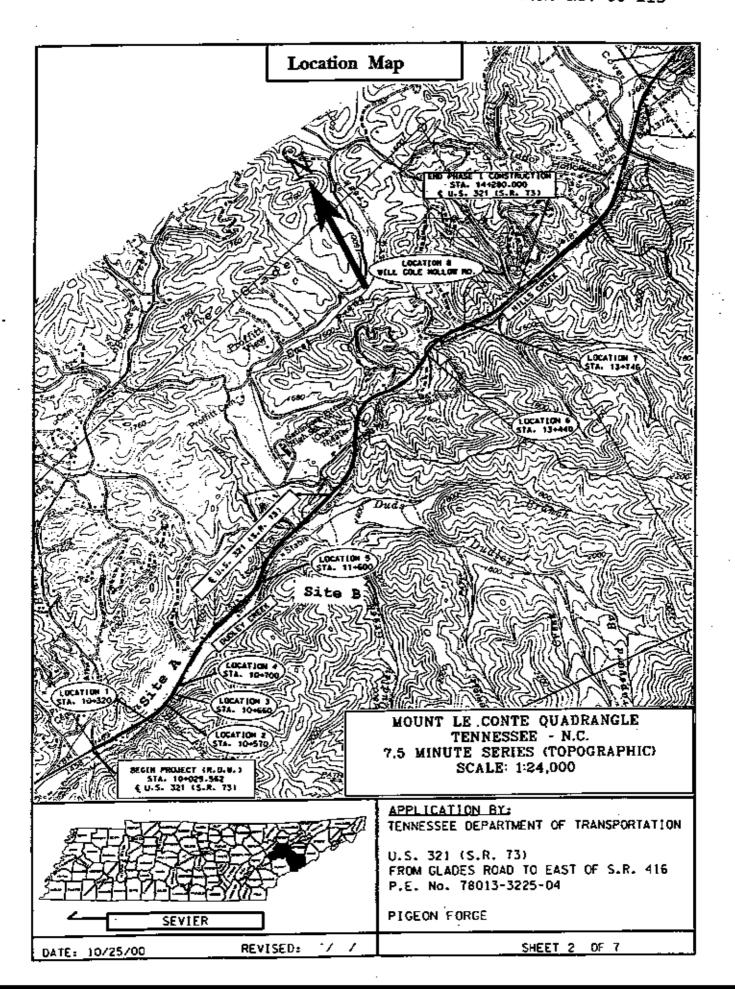
Based on available information, the proposed activity will not destroy or endanger any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act; therefore, initiation of formal consultation procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time.

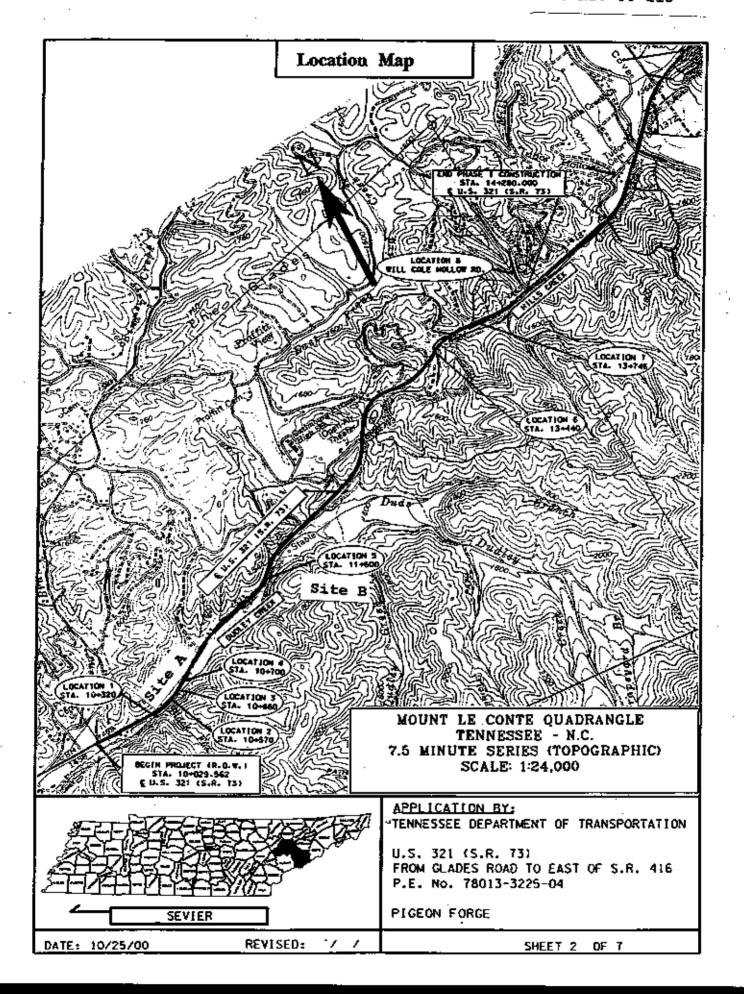
Other federal, state, and local approvals required for the proposed work are as follows:

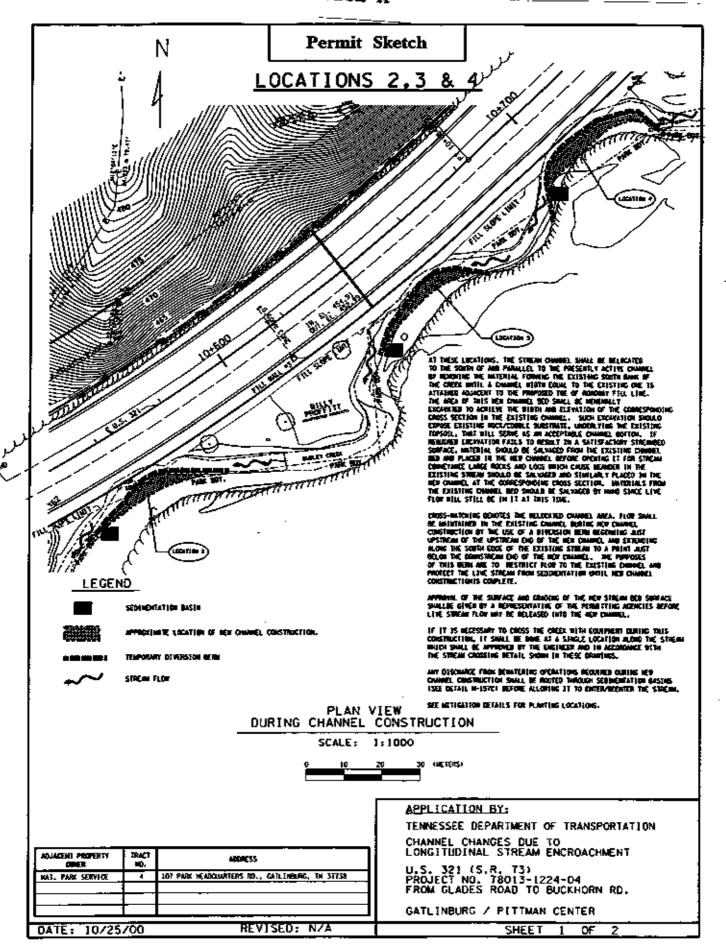
- a. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) approval under Section 26a of the TVA Act. In addition to other provisions of its approval, TVA would require the applicant to employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, as necessary, to prevent adverse aquatic impacts.
- b. Water quality certification from the State of Tennessee in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

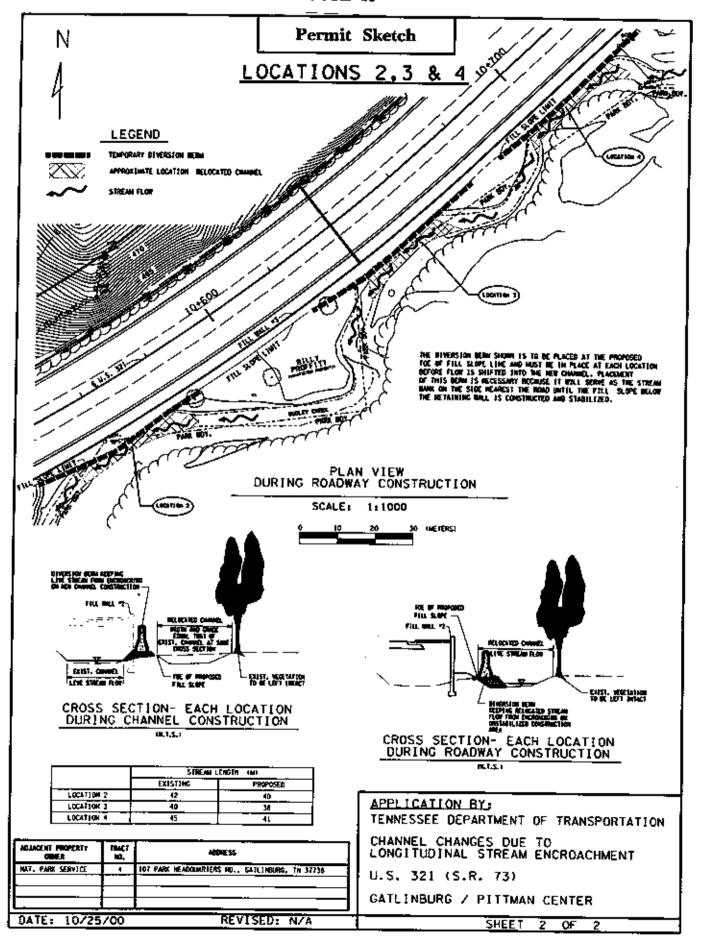
Written statements received in this office on or before January 4, 2001, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attn: Mr. J. Ruben Hernandez, at the above address, telephone (615) 736-5182, Fax (615) 736-7145. It is not necessary to comment separately to TVA since copies of all comments will be sent to that agency and will become part of its record on the proposal. However, if comments are sent to TVA, they should be mailed to Cherokee-Douglas Watershed Team, 2611 West Andrew Johnson Highway, Morristown, Tennessee 37814-3295.

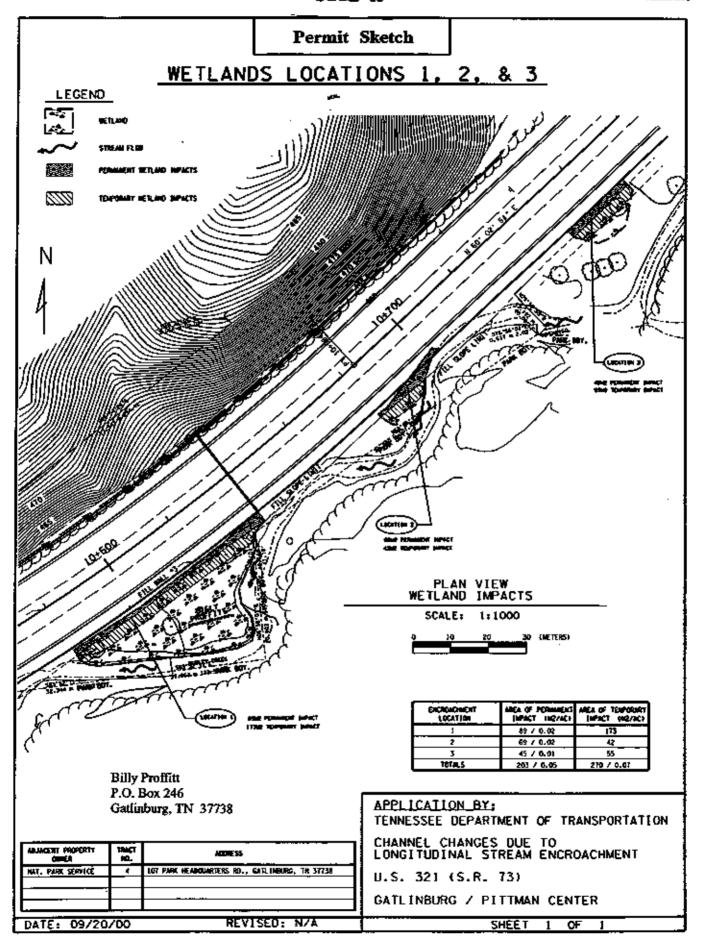


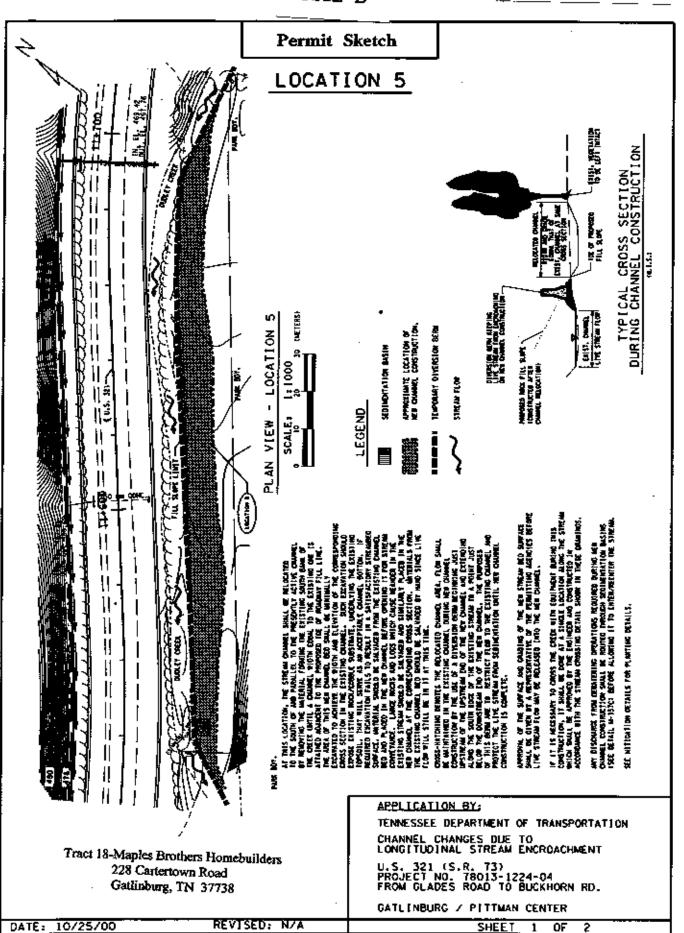




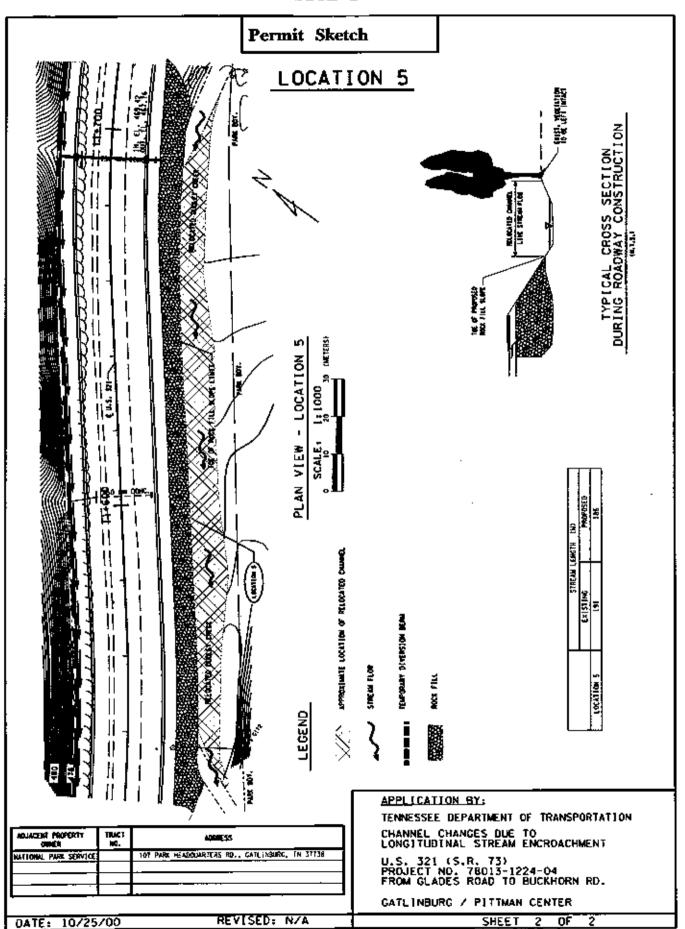
SITE A

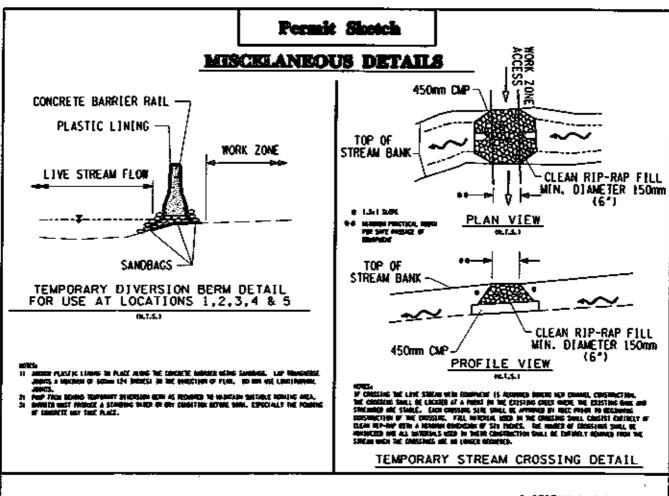


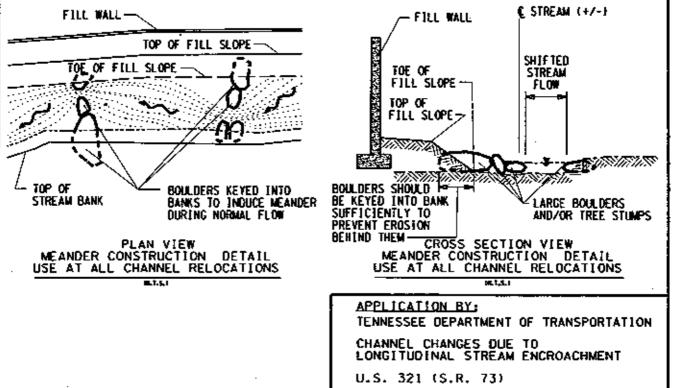




SITE B





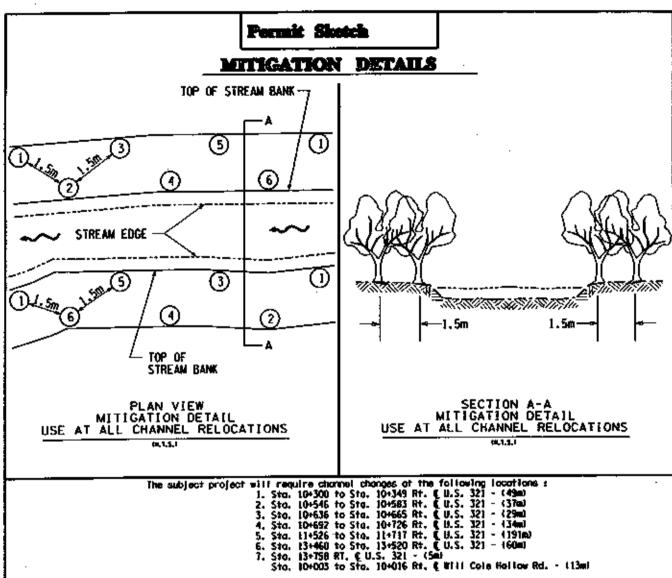


REVISEO: N/A

BATE: 10/25/00

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SHEET 3 OF 7



The area surrounding these locations is mostly wooded, but some conopy will likely be removed during construction of the new channel sections. To mitigate for the loss of concey, the following tree species are recommended for planting in the available space along the new chamels:

1. Red Maple - Acer rubrum

2. Sycomore - Plotanus occidentalis

3. Sweetgum - Liquidambar styracifiuo

- 4. Eastern hemlack Tauga canadensis
- 5. Elitch hazel Hamamells virginiana
- 6. Hazet alder Alnus serrutsta

These trees are to be bare-root specimens, 0.6m - 1.0m in height. Trees are to be planted in the disturbed creas along each bank of the new channels as space allows. Trees are to planted in an alternating pattern on approximately 1.5m centers. The roots of these trees are to be kept maist until the time they are planted at the specified locations.

No cultivors of these species will be occupted, No substitutions for any of the specified tree species will be occupted without written permission from the Environmental Pianning and Permits Division.

APPLICATION BY:

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MITIGATION DETAILS FOR LONGITUDINAL STREAM ENCROACHMENT

U.S. 321 (S.R. 73)

GATLINBURG / PITTMAN CENTER

DATE: 10/25/00

REVISED: N/A

SHEET 4 OF 7